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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9612
INFO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 BRUSSELS 10591

DEPARTMENT FOR AF, AF/RA, AF/C, AND EUR/NE

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: OTRA, PREL, PGOV, BE, RW, BY
SUBJECT: DAS BUSHNELL'S BRIEFING TO BELGIAN MFA OFFICIALS

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT

SUMMARY

2. ON SEPT. 23, DAS PRUDENCE BUSHNELL AND AF/RA'S SCOTT
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FISHER BRIEFED EDMOND DE WILDE, BELGIAN MFA'S NEWLY
DESIGNATED DIRECTOR FOR SUBSAHARAN AFRICA, ON THE
UNHCR/OAU REFUGEE CONFERENCE IN ADDIS ABABA. THEY
REVIEWED THEIR TWO TRIPS TO RWANDA, WHERE THEY MET WITH
MEMBERS OF THE RPF-LED GOVERNMENT AND VISITED DEVASTATED
AREAS IN THE SOUTHEAST, AND TO BURUNDI, WHERE THEY HELD
DISCUSSIONS WITH A CROSS SECTION OF MILITARY AND POLITICAL
LEADERS. DE WILDE AGREED WITH USG ASSESSMENT OF SITUATION
IN BURUNDI AND SAID BELGIUM INTENDED TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL
ASSISTANCE TO RWANDA AND BURUNDI. END SUMMARY.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

REVIEW AUTHORITY:
HARRY R. MELONE

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UNHCR/OAU CONFERENCE ON REFUGEES

3. DAS BUSHNELL SAID THAT AT THE UNCHR/OAU REFUGEE MEETING HELD IN ADDIS ABABA ON SEPT. 8-10, MANY KEY ISSUES HAD BEEN AGREED UPON. CONSENSUS HAD EMERGED ON HOLDING A REGIONAL CONFERENCE BUT WORK STILL HAD TO BE DONE ON THE AGENDA. ESTABLISHMENT OF A TRILATERAL COMMISSION ON REFUGEES, CONSISTING OF ZAIRE, RWANDA, AND BURUNDI, AS WELL AS OF A JOINT COMMISSION INVOLVING THE OAU, UNHCR, REGIONAL PARTIES AND OBSERVERS TO THE ARUSHA ACCORDS, WAS ALSO REVIEWED.

4. DAS BUSHNELL NOTED SHE HAD SPECIFICALLY DISCUSSED THE SECURITY SITUATION IN GOMA WITH OAU SYGEN SALIM SALIM WHO HAD AGREED THAT MILITARY AND EX-GOVERNMENT FIGURES HAD TO BE SEPARATED FROM REFUGEES AND THAT THE POWER OF THE MILITIAS HAD TO BE DILUTED. THESE MEASURES WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO ACCOMPLISH AS THERE WAS NO CONSENSUS ON THE

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6-7 OPTIONS FLOATED BY THE USG TO PROMOTE CAMP SECURITY, DAS BUSHNELL SAID. UNHCR OFFICIALS HAD ALSO UNDERSCORED THE IMPORTANCE OF CONTROLLING SECURITY IN GOMA AND DEALING WITH REPATRIATION QUESTIONS. MRS. OGATA HAS ASKED WHEN THE USG ANTICIPATED THE SEPARATION OF EX-MILITARY WOULD OCCUR. MRS. OGATA'S OPINION WAS THAT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO EX-MILITARY WOULD HAVE TO CEASE BY THE END OF 1994, LEST THE UNHCR LOSE CREDIBILITY OVER THIS ISSUE.

RWANDA: FRUSTRATION IN GOVERNMENT CIRCLES AND DEVASTATION IN THE SOUTHEAST

5. IN KIGALI, DAS BUSHNELL HAD MET WITH PM TWAGIRAMUNGU AND MEMBERS OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT. THE GOVERNMENT WAS ADAMANT THAT THERE HAD TO BE MOVEMENT ON THE QUESTION OF GENOCIDE. THE LEVEL OF FRUSTRATION WAS HIGH AND THE GOVERNMENT WAS FEELING MISUNDERSTOOD. IT BELIEVED THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY EXPECTED TOO MUCH FROM A YOUNG GOVERNMENT THAT DESPERATELY NEEDED RECONSTRUCTION ASSISTANCE AS WELL AS FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO CLEAR ITS ARREARS. FURTHERMORE, THE RPF HAD TRIED TO INSTALL A BROAD-BASED GOVERNMENT AND HAD ASKED MRND MODERATES TO JOIN IN BUT THEY HAD REFUSED. "WHAT MORE DID WESTERN

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NATIONS WANT?" THEY ASKED.

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7. DAS BUSHNELL SAID SHE HAD SEEN IMPRESSIVE DEVASTATION DURING HER TOUR OF THE SOUTHEAST OF RWANDA. NUMEROUS BUILDINGS STOOD EMPTY AND DESTROYED AND FIELDS WERE UNHARVESTED. BUTARE HAD BEEN PARTICULARLY HEAVILY HIT. KIGALI, ON THE OTHER HAND, SEEMED TO BE PICKING UP. THERE

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WAS LOTS OF ACTIVITY IN THE CENTRAL MARKET AND EFFORTS TO CLEAN UP THE DAMAGE WERE VISIBLE. AN INTERESTING DEVELOPMENT IN KIGALI WAS THE INCREASED NUMBER OF ANGLOPHONES, LENDING CREDENCE TO THE STORIES THAT TUTSIS, LONG RESIDENT IN UGANDA, WERE RETURNING TO THE CAPITAL.

REPORTS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES BY THE RPF DIFFICULT TO VERIFY

8. THE SECOND TRIP TO RWANDA HAD CONCENTRATED ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES, DAS BUSHNELL TOLD DE WILDE. ALLEGATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES BY THE RPF IN THE NORTHEAST AND SOUTHEAST HAD SURFACED. OUTFLOWS OF REFUGEES WERE CONTINUING BUT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO CATEGORIZE THEM AND PINPOINT THE REASONS FOR THE EXODUS. DHA'S COORDINATOR, CHARLES PETRIE, HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER CONDITIONS IN THE CAMPS AND HAD SUGGESTED THAT REFUGEES BE MOVED OUT OF NGARA, BUKAVU, AND UVIRA INTO THE SOUTHEAST. SECURITY IN GOMA, HE THOUGHT, COULD BE IMPROVED WITH THE PRESENCE OF A QUICK-REACTION TEAM.

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9. THERE WAS ALSO CONCERN OVER THE ABILITY OF THE ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENT TO NEUTRALIZE THOSE WHO ADVOCATED RESUMING THE CONFLICT AND WHO INTIMIDATED REFUGEES. PLANS TO MOVE EX-FAR AND MILITARY FURTHER INLAND, AS SOME ZAIRIAN OFFICIALS PROPOSED, COULD MAKE IT HARDER TO IDENTIFY AND LOCATE THOSE IMPLICATED IN HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES.

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BURUNDI - A GLIMMER OF HOPE

10. THE VISIT TO BURUNDI HAD BEEN MORE ENCOURAGING THAN ANTICIPATED, ACCORDING TO DAS BUSHNELL. IN HER MEETINGS WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, WESTERN AMBASSADORS, POLITICIANS, AND SPECIAL REP ABDULLAH, THE ROLE OF THE OAU MONITORS HAD BEEN POSITIVELY ASSESSED. ALTHOUGH THEIR MANDATE WAS BROAD AND THEIR NUMBERS SMALL, THEIR BURUNDIAN HOSTS AGREED THE MONITORS' PRESENCE HELPED MAINTAIN THE PEACE.

11. EVEN THE BURUNDIAN MILITARY HAD EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THE PERFORMANCE OF THE OAU CONTINGENT, BUSHNELL SAID. FURTHERMORE, IN CONVERSATIONS WITH THE ETAT MAJEUR, MILITARY LEADERS HAD NOT REJECTED OUTRIGHT THE POSSIBILITY OF INCREASING THE NUMBER OF OAU MONITORS. ALTHOUGH THE MILITARY HAD NOT RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO THE SUGGESTION, THEY HAD LIMITED THEMSELVES TO SAYING THAT AN INCREASE IN MONITORS WOULD REQUIRE A NEW PROTOCOL. THIS MORE FLEXIBLE REACTION CONTRASTED FAVORABLY WITH THEIR POSITION OF SIX MONTHS AGO, WHEN THE MILITARY HAD STRONGLY OPPOSED AN ENLARGED OAU PRESENCE IN BURUNDI.

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12. THE POLITICAL SITUATION WAS ALSO LOOKING UP. BY THE TIME DAS BUSHNELL VISITED BURUNDI, 10 OUT OF 13 PARTIES HAD SIGNED THE ACCORDS. MANY OBSERVERS WERE LOOKING FORWARD TO THE END OF NEGOTIATIONS AND THOUGHT THE CURRENT PRESIDENT HAD A GOOD CHANCE OF REMAINING IN OFFICE. IN ADDITION, THERE WAS CONSENSUS THAT THE OCTOBER 1993 PUTSCH HAD TO BE ADDRESSED. INQUIRIES COULD NOT BE HANDLED

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INTERNALLY BUT WOULD REQUIRE AN INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL. THE BURUNDI GOVERNMENT WOULD BE LOOKING TO ITS FRIENDS FOR ASSISTANCE. DAS BUSHNELL EXPRESSED THE HOPE THE GOB WOULD CONTINUE TO HELP BURUNDI.

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13. DAS BUSHNELL DID NOT SEE THIS CABLE BEFORE DEPARTING POST.

14. MINIMIZES CONSIDERED.

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